

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

December 6, 2002

IN RE:

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT
TO FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNITED
CITIES GAS CO. AND ELIZABETHTON, TENNESSEE**

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**DOCKET NO.
02-01020**

ORDER APPOINTING A HEARING OFFICER

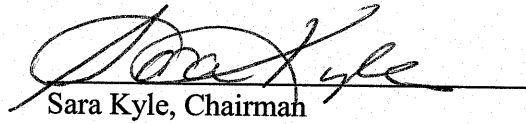
This matter came before Chairman Sara Kyle, Director Deborah Taylor Tate, and Director Pat Miller of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on October 7, 2002 for consideration of United Cities Gas Company's Petition for Approval of a Franchise Agreement with Elizabethton, Tennessee.

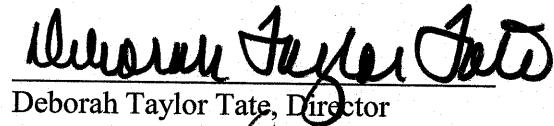
Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-107 requires that any privilege or franchise granted to any public utility by the state of Tennessee or by any political subdivision thereof be approved by the Authority. Such approval is to be granted only after a hearing and upon a determination by the Authority that the privilege or franchise is necessary and proper for the public convenience and properly conserves the public interest.

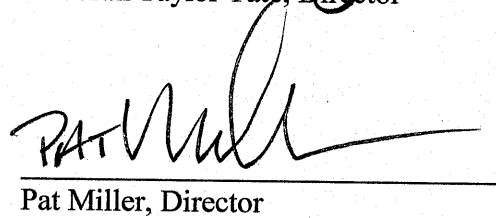
At the above-referenced Authority Conference, the Directors voted unanimously to appoint the Authority's General Counsel or his designee to act as the Hearing Officer to set a procedural schedule, conduct a hearing and render a decision on the merits of United Cities' Petition.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The General Counsel or his designee is appointed Hearing Officer in this matter to set a procedural schedule, conduct a hearing and render a decision on the merits of United Cities Gas Company's Petition.


Sara Kyle, Chairman


Deborah Taylor Tate, Director


Pat Miller, Director